

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

July 17, 2012

MINUTES

The form and content of these minutes conform to commonly accepted standards and shall become the official record of the meeting after review and approval by the School Committee. By definition, minutes are not a verbatim record for the proceedings.

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present: Teri Maia-Cicero, Chairperson; Mark Rafanelli, Vice-Chairperson; Valerie Zuercher, Clerk; Theresa Donovan, Paul McFadden, Lee Kissinger, Claudine Pande. Others present: Director of Administration/*Acting Superintendent* Robert V. Ross

ORDER – Chair Cicero called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Vice Chair Rafanelli read the District Mission Statement.

Open Forum – None

Recognitions/Achievements – Dr. Thomas J. Geismar – On behalf of the entire School Committee, Chair Cicero and Vice Chair Rafanelli joined in honoring retired Superintendent Dr. Tom Geismar and presented him with a recognition certificate and a School Committee Apple Recognition Award. Chair Cicero told Dr. Geismar that it is time to say farewell, it has been a wonderful six-years, and the committee will miss him. Vice Chair Rafanelli told Dr. Geismar that his guidance over the past six years is unmatched and that the district is in a better place because of the work he has done.

Dr. Geismar said that he and his wife Laurie are leaving Rhode Island with so many friends. The EWG school community is blessed with a great culture. He thanked students, parents, teachers, administrators, Council 94 members, Mrs. Cerio, Mr. Ross, and past and present School Committee members. He said that he is excited and looks forward to the future but he is sad at the same time. School Committee members individually thanked Dr. Geismar for his service to the school district and expressed best wishes and farewells.

The meeting recessed for a short refreshment break.
Chair Cicero called the meeting back to order at this time, (6:38 p.m.).

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA- Mr. Ross gave an overview of the Consent Agenda.

Member McFadden made a motion to accept the consent agenda; seconded by Member Pande; and voted 7 – 0 in favor.

The following items were approved:

- A. Approval of Minutes –Special Meeting Minutes of June 26, 2012;
Executive Session 5:30 p.m. Meeting Minutes of June 26, 2012; Regular
Meeting Minutes of June 26, 2012; Executive Session 6:44 p.m. Meeting
Minutes of June 26, 2012**
 - B. Personnel Items**
 - 1. Appointments**
 - 2. Leaves of Absence**
 - 3. Resignations – (As Recommended by the Superintendent, with
Regret)**
 - a. Letter of Resignation from Elaine Joyal-Healy resigning her
position as Sr. High School Guidance Counselor, for the
purpose of retirement, effective July 10, 2012**
 - 4. Grievances**
 - 5. Non-Renewals**
 - 6. Recalls**
 - 7. Sabbaticals**
 - C. Bills – In the amount of \$49,320.79; Accruals in the amount of
\$109,820.25**
 - D. Home School Approval**
 - 1. (1) Grade 1 Student**
 - 2. (1) Kindergarten Student**
- End Consent Agenda**

**Correspondence – (1) June 20, 2012 Letter to School Committee from Melissa
Marino and Deborah Blake-Iacchini**

2011 – 2012 Monthly Budget Projection – None

2012 – 2013 Budget – None

MONTHLY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT(S) – Policy Subcommittee – None

IT Subcommittee – None

Public Relations Subcommittee – None

MONTHLY STATUS REPORTS – Superintendent – No questions/comments

**Business – Mr. Ross referenced the Capital Asset Protection Plan mentioned in his report
and provided handouts of a spreadsheet illustrating the projects that have been completed
this year to accompany the spreadsheet provided in members' packets illustrating the
projects that were completed last year.**

Special Education – None

Maintenance – No questions/comments

Technology – None

NEW BUSINESS – Capital Asset Project Housing Aid – Mr. Ross reported that one thing not done during the budget approval at the All Day Referendum was that the district did not include a capital request in the budget. The major capital improvements have been addressed with the recently completed \$5.8 million bond project, but there are still improvements outside of the bond project that have been funded through the Capital Reserve Fund. That fund will end the 2012 fiscal year with about a \$100,000 balance and therefore based upon the Capital Asset Protection Plan projects, the Capital Reserve Fund may need to be replenished by the School Committee. The replenishment could be achieved through School Committee action of a transfer of a portion of the unrestricted General Fund balance to the Capital Reserve Fund. This item will be brought back to the committee at the next meeting.

Policies Review/Adoption – 8513: Dating Violence, Sexual Violence and Hazing – Prohibited - Adoption – Member Pande noted that new copies of policies 8513 and 8518 have been provided in members' supplemental packets because the policy subcommittee tweaked some of the language in both of these policies. She gave a brief explanation of the minor language changes that were made.

Member McFadden made a motion to adopt policy 8513; seconded by Vice Chair Rafanelli; and voted 7 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Policies Review/Adoption – 8518: Bullying – Prohibited - Adoption – Member Pande moved to adopt Policy 8518; seconded by Member Kissinger; and voted 7 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Out of District Transportation – Mr. Ross reported that the district is still waiting for the RIDE (RI Department of Education) analysis and RIDE is not ready to cede back the private runs to the district yet.

FY 2013 General Fund Balance Assignment – In follow-up to the School Committees' request at its previous meeting, Mr. Ross advised that he spoke to the district auditor regarding quarterly assignments of the General Fund balance. The auditor recommended against quarterly assignments. Mr. Ross requested that the School Committee assign \$375,000 of the anticipated 2012 General Fund balance to cover a portion of the anticipated shortfalls in the areas of support services, curriculum, tuitions, and transportation. He said that the assignment would demonstrate the School Committees' due diligence of intended use for the fund balance.

Member Pande moved to approve \$375,000 to cover portions of anticipated shortfalls of the 2012 – 2013 budget; seconded by Clerk Zuercher

Mr. Ross answered Member Donovan's clarifying questions. Member Donovan noted that the motion is not specific to where shortfalls are. She questioned if it needs to be. Mr. Ross said it did not need to be specific. The assignment demonstrates the School Committees' intent to assign funds for any of those items. Member Donovan questioned if appropriation of \$375,000 is at the discretion of anyone in particular or does it come back to the school committee? Mr. Ross replied that at the end of the year the budget balance is looked at in the aggregate. Each line item in the budget could be balanced, negative, or positive. The assignment would cover those line items that are negative. There would be no need for School Committee action; however, the School Committee will be well informed regarding the year-end balance.

Vote 7 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

School Committee Decorum – Chair Cicero reported that Bill Clay has prepared a School Committee decorum policy. The policy will come to the School Committee after it is finalized by Mr. Clay.

Technology Update – Chair Cicero told members that she has nothing to report on technology at this time because she has not talked to Brian Butler. She will reach out to Mr. Butler for an update.

Capital Project Update – Mr. Ross said that he spoke to Architect Torrado on Thursday evening. Mr. Torrado reported that American Engineering is awaiting approval from the RI Department of Environmental Management for the admin/data center parking area project in order to comply with wetland regulations.

Reports/Comments – None

Important Dates and Meetings – None

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 – Vice Chair Rafanelli moved to go into Executive Session at 6:55 p.m. in accordance with 42-46-5 (2) – CBA – (C94/Teachers' Association) – Negotiations and or Pending Litigation; and 42-46-5 (a)(1) – Personnel; seconded by Member Pande; and voted as follows:

Teri Cicero	Yes
Mark Rafanelli	Yes
Valerie Zuercher	Yes
Lee Kissinger	Yes
Theresa Donovan	Yes
Paul McFadden	Yes
Claudine Pande	Yes

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 6:55 p.m.

Clerk Zuercher moved to reconvene to Open Session; seconded by Member Kissinger; and voted 7 – 0 in favor.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 7:45 p.m.

There were no votes taken during Executive Session.

Adjournment – Member Kissinger moved to adjourn; Vice Chair Rafanelli seconded; and voted 7 – 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO
CLERK